

DOCKET NO: 284677US40PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :
YASUHISA HAGIWARA, ET AL. : EXAMINER: KERNS, K. P.
SERIAL NO: 10/565,540 :
FILED: OCTOBER 18, 2006 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1793
FOR: CONTINUOUS CASTING :
METHOD, CAST MEMBER, METAL
WORKED ARTICLE, AND CONTINUOUS
CASTING APPARATUS

ELECTION

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

In response to the Election Requirement dated January 29, 2009, Applicant(s) elect Group I, identified in the outstanding Office Action as corresponding to Claims 1, 3, 12, 14, 15, 17, and 18 drawn to a continuous casting method and apparatus. Applicant(s) reserve the right to file one or more divisional applications directed to the non-elected invention.

Accordingly, examination on the merits of Claims 1, 3, 12, 14, 15, 17, and 18 is believed to be in order and an early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Richard D. Kelly
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 27,757

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413 -2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Edwin D. Garlepp
Registration No. 45,330